

Message Text

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PAGE 01 RABAT 03351 01 OF 02 061452Z
ACTION OES-07

INFO OCT-01 NEA-11 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08
FRB-03 INR-10 NSAE-00 ICA-11 TRSE-00 XMB-02
OPIC-03 SP-02 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 AGRE-00 NSC-05
SS-15 STR-07 CEA-01 L-03 /100 W
-----084726 061608Z /45
R 061419Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY RABAT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5671

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 1 OF 2 RABAT 3351

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SPOP
SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR'S ROLE IN DEALING WITH PRESSING GLOBAL
PROBLEMS - POPULATION GROWTH AND ADEQUATE FOOD PRODUCTION

REF: STATE 107370

1. REFTEL REQUESTED AMBASSADOR TO ESTABLISH AND REPORT ON
CONTINUING DIALOGUE WITH HOST COUNTRY LEADERSHIP REGARDING THE
NEED TO DEAL MORE EFFECTIVELY WITH POPULATION/FOOD PROBLEMS IN
ORDER TO REALIZE NATIONAL ASPIRATIONS AND PLANS FOR ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT. THIS CABLE SUMMARIZES AMBASSADOR'S ACTIONS TO
DATE AND PLANNED INITIATIVES FOR THE NEAR FUTURE.

2. IMMEDIATELY UPON RECEIPT OF REFTEL, AMBASSADOR ASKED FOR
AND RECEIVED RECOMMENDATIONS AND TALKING POINTS TO BE USED IN
STRENGTHENING EXISTING DIALOGUE WITH HOST COUNTRY OFFICIALS.
KEY COUNTRY TEAM MEMBERS MET ON APRIL 26 AND MAY 9 TO DISCUSS
RECOMMENDED ACTIONS AND THE NATURE OF THE POPULATION/FOOD
PROBLEM IN MOROCCO. OUR ASSESSMENT IS THAT:

A. THERE IS AN URGENT NEED FOR MOROCCO TO STEP UP ITS
ACTION IN BOTH POPULATION PLANNING AND IN FOOD PRODUCTION;

B. HOST COUNTRY LEADERSHIP DOES NOT NOW APPEAR FULLY
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PAGE 02 RABAT 03351 01 OF 02 061452Z

COMMITTED TO EITHER GOAL;

C. POPULATION PLANNING IS STILL SOMEWHAT DELICATE TOPIC IN
THE MOROCCAN CONTEXT, AND ONE WHICH REQUIRES SKILLFUL HANDLING
IF POSITIVE RESULTS ARE TO BE OBTAINED;

D. DESPITE REAL CONSTRAINTS POSED BY THE DELICATE NATURE
OF THE SUBJECT IN MOROCCO, THE U.S. HAS AN IMPORTANT ROLE TO
PLAY IN INFLUENCING THE WAY IN WHICH MOROCCAN LEADERSHIP

CONSIDERS AND DEALS WITH THE NATION'S FOOD AND POPULATION PROBLEMS.

3. IN FULFILLING THE U.S. ROLE, THE AMBASSADOR HAS CHARGED THE EMBASSY, AID AND ICA WITH THE DEVELOPMENT OF AN OVERALL STRATEGY FOR ACTION--IN A MEASURED AND EFFECTIVE WAY--TO BRING ABOUT A GREATER AWARENESS OF THE FOOD/POPULATION DILEMMA AMONG THE COUNTRY'S INFLUENTIAL PERSONALITIES AS WELL AS STRENGTHENED POLICIES AND PROGRAMS TO DEAL WITH THESE PROBLEMS.

4. THE AMBASSADOR BELIEVES STRONGLY THAT THESE PROBLEMS MUST BE DEALT WITH IN AN OVERALL CONTEXT OF DEVELOPMENT ACTIONS PERTAINING TO FOOD PRODUCTION, FAMILY PLANNING, EDUCATION AND JOB TRAINING FOR WOMEN, AND NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLANNING FOR SERVICES AND INFRASTRUCTURE REQUIRED TO MEET BASIC HUMAN NEEDS. U.S. ACTIONS RELATING TO THE FOOD/POPULATION DIALOGUE WILL THEREFORE BE UNDERTAKEN IN THE CONTEXT OF THIS OVERALL APPROACH, UNDER THE PERSONAL COORDINATION OF THE AMBASSADOR.

5. THE AMBASSADOR HAS HAD LENGTHY DISCUSSIONS WITH THE SECRETARY-GENERAL, MINISTRY OF HEALTH, AND WITH THE CHIEF ADVISER TO THE MINISTER OF HEALTH. THESE KEY OFFICIALS STRONGLY BELIEVE IN THE NEED FOR MORE INTENSIVE AND EXTENSIVE POPULATION PLANNING ACTIONS. THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ADVISES THAT, DUE LARGELY TO HIS EFFORTS, THE NEW DEVELOPMENT PLAN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 RABAT 03351 01 OF 02 061452Z

WILL INCLUDE A SECTION ON THE COUNTRY'S POPULATION PROBLEM. DURING THE AMBASSADOR'S RECENT DISCUSSIONS WITH THE UNDP REPRESENTATIVE FOR MOROCCO, THE LATTER STATED HIS ORGANIZATION WOULD BE MAKING A MAJOR EFFORT IN THE POPULATION AREA BEGINNING THIS SEPTEMBER, AND THAT HE LOOKED FORWARD TO COORDINATING THEIR EFFORTS WITH OUR AID ACTIVITIES.

6. THE AMBASSADOR HAS ALSO MET ON A NUMBER OF OCCASIONS WITH MINISTER AND SECRETARY-GENERAL OF AGRICULTURE TO IMPRESS UPON THAT MINISTRY THE IMPORTANCE OF ATTACKING THE POPULATION/FOOD DILEMMA WITH POSITIVE EMPHASIS ON AID SUPPORTED DRYLAND FARMING PROJECT, THE PROMOTION OF AGRO-BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT, AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF SUITABLE PROGRAMS TO IMPROVE LIVESTOCK MANAGEMENT. THESE DISCUSSIONS HAVE RESULTED IN CONCRETE STEPS TOWARD PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION.

7. IN THE CONTEXT OF EARLIER DISCUSSIONS WITH MINISTRY OF FINANCE ON PL 480 AGREEMENT, THE AMBASSADOR EMPHASIZED SELF-HELP MEASURES INCLUDING FAMILY PLANNING. WE WILL BE EXPLORING IN THE NEAR FUTURE THE POSSIBLE USEFULNESS OF TITLE III (LOAN FORGIVENESS) AGREEMENTS IN STIMULATING GOM POLICIES AND PROGRAMS IN POPULATION AND IN FOOD PRODUCTION.

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PAGE 01 RABAT 03351 02 OF 02 061507Z
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COME-00 EB-08 FRB-03 INR-10 NSAE-00 ICA-11
TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03 SP-02 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01
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R 061419Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY RABAT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5672

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 2 OF 2 RABAT 3351

8. STRATEGY FOR FUTURE ACTION -- WHILE THE OVERALL STRATEGY HAS NOT YET BEEN FULLY ELABORATED, THE FOLLOWING ACTIONS HAVE BEEN IDENTIFIED. ICA WILL BEGIN IMMEDIATELY TO INFUSE SELECTED ARTICLES ON POPULATION PROBLEMS INTO ITS REGULAR DISTRIBUTION OF MATERIALS TO INFLUENTIAL INDIVIDUALS AND GROUPS, INCLUDING MOROCCAN OFFICIALS, JOURNALISTS, BUSINESSMEN, AND STUDENTS. USAID POPULATION PLANNING ACTIONS WILL BE EXPANDED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE RECENTLY SUBMITTED PROJECT PAPER REVISION (PROJECT 0112). THE AMBASSADOR AND KEY MEMBERS OF THE COUNTRY TEAM WILL USE EVERY APPROPRIATE OCCASION WITH MOROCCAN LEADERS IN GOVERNMENT, PARLIAMENT, AND INDUSTRY TO SENSITIZE THEM TO THE LONGER RANGE IMPLICATIONS OF UNCONTROLLED POPULATION GROWTH COUPLED WITH DECLINING RATE IN FOOD PRODUCTION. PERIODICALLY, SPECIAL COUNTRY TEAM REVIEWS WILL BE HELD TO REVIEW PROBLEMS, PROGRESS, AND PROSPECTS AND TO MODIFY STRATEGIES AS APPROPRIATE. REPORTS WILL BE MADE TO THE DEPARTMENT FOLLOWING EACH PERIODIC REVIEW.

9. WE BELIEVE THAT THE WORLD BANK, IMF AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS CAN HAVE AN IMPORTANT IMPACT ON MOROCCAN LEADERS IN THE CONTEXT OF HIGH-LEVEL NEGOTIATIONS HELD IN AND OUTSIDE OF MOROCCO. SPECIALLY DEVELOPED PROGRAMS ABROAD FOR SELECTED PARLIAMENTARIANS AND GOM OFFICIALS COULD ALSO BE USEFUL IN
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PAGE 02 RABAT 03351 02 OF 02 061507Z

CONVINCING THEM OF THE SCOPE AND INTENSITY OF THE FOOD/POPULATION PROBLEM IN MOROCCO. IN ADDITION, CAREFULLY PLANNED AUDIO-VISUAL PRESENTATIONS FOR HIGH-LEVEL OFFICIALS IN MOROCCO COULD HAVE A POSITIVE IMPACT ON THEIR UNDERSTANDING OF THE PROBLEM. THE DESIRABILITY OF INVOLVING MOROCCAN INSTITUTIONS SUCH AS THE MINISTRY OF PLAN AND THE UNIVERSITY IS WORTHY OF STRESS.

10. IN SUM, U.S. ACTION TO MEET THE OBJECTIVES OF THE RECENT DIRECTIVE (REFTEL) IS UNDERWAY IN MOROCCO, AND WE INTEND TO MOVE IN A STRUCTURED MANNER TO IMPROVE THE ORGANIZATION AND IMPACT OF OUR EFFORTS.

DECON 6/2/80.
ANDERSON

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